



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Chris Abele

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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***County Exec Abele Calls on County Board To Enact  
Employee Sick Leave and Vacation Caps Thursday  
Changes Will Save Taxpayers Millions, Data Shows***

**MILWAUKEE** – Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele on Tuesday called on the County Board to enact proposed limits to employee sick leave and vacation policies, including ending the practice of letting employees accumulate unlimited sick time, which will save taxpayers millions of dollars.

The matter is scheduled for a vote at the board's Thursday meeting, and Abele urged supervisors to pass the measure.

"Every week the board postpones action on this long-needed reform delays savings to taxpayers," Abele said. "The time to act is now."

Recently compiled data showed that taxpayers would have saved \$2.57 million if the amount of accumulated sick leave and vacation paid out over the last four months to retirees had been earned within the proposed limits and policies. Such savings will take years to achieve, which is why the board needs to act now, Abele said.

The board last month narrowly voted, 10-9, to delay passage by sending the proposal back to committee.

Abele proposed the changes in May after it was learned that excessive retirement payments were made to a former director of administrative services. Under the proposed changes:

- No more than 240 hours of sick leave could be accumulated starting Jan. 1, 2012. Currently unlimited amounts can be accrued and are paid out as cash or health care premiums upon retirement. Sick leave already accrued above the new limit will not be revoked.
- No more than 56 hours of vacation could be carried over into a new year, and as of Dec. 31, 2012, any excess hours would be forfeited at the end of each year. The current policy allows 120 hours to be carried over each year, and the balance accumulates into future years before being paid out.
- New policies would prevent returning employees from receiving excessive amounts of vacation and sick leave.

According to information from the County Department of Administrative Services:

- Retirees received a total of \$4.3 million in sick leave and vacation payouts in March, April, May and June.
- Had the proposed caps and policies been in place during their period of employment, the sick leave and vacation payouts would have been \$2.57 million less.

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